

Question Support

LITERARY ANALYSIS

For questions 1–3, see page 1223 of the Student Edition.

Directions: Answer each question.

- 4. Examine Dialogue** Read the dialogue between Nora and Cathleen in lines 7–51.

Check each fact you learn in these lines.

- a. Their brother Michael has drowned but his body has not been found.
- b. Their brother Bartley died when he fell off his horse near the sea.
- c. Nora and Cathleen want to save their mother from unnecessary grief.
- d. Maurya's family is deeply religious.

- 5. Analyze Dialect** Complete this sentence.

If the characters spoke conventional English instead of dialect, I would probably find them _____

- 6. Interpret Mood** Circle the words that describe the mood of the play.

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| a. trivial | c. joyous | e. ominous |
| b. mournful | d. playful | f. dark |

- 7. Understand Cultural Context** Underline the word or phrase that completes each sentence.

You can tell that the people of Aran are (lonely/superstitious/careless) because they believe in omens and bad luck.

In this island setting, natural resources are (scarce/plentiful/nonexistent).

Men and women in this culture have (the same/very different) roles in daily life.

- 8. Evaluate Dramatic Conventions** A **tragedy** is a work that shows the downfall of a dignified character. The **hero** of a tragedy has a **tragic flaw** that leads to his or her destruction. Do you think *Riders to the Sea* is a tragedy? Why or why not?

- 9. Compare Texts** Compare this play with the article on page 1225.

In the play, the women of Aran _____

In the article, it is the men of Sumatra who _____
